

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV385.95
April 20, 1995

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Department of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office, Room C108, Cogswell Bldg.,
Helena, 59620-0901

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Fisheries Division
Regional Supervisor

Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Lands Section

Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's
Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201

Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, 59624

Montana Department of Livestock, Game Farm Applications, 301 Roberts, Helena, 59620

Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, 59624

Joe Gutkoski, 304 North 18th, Bozeman, 59715

Dave Majors, 3289 Wood Duck Lane, Stevensville, 59870-6696

Herb Johnson, 900 W. Reserve St., Apt. 225, Kalispell, 59901

Arlene Montgomery, Friends of the Wild Swan, PO Box 5103, Swan Lake, 59911

Flathead Wildlife, Inc., Bob Cole, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903

Flathead Regional Development Office, 723 Fifth Avenue East, Room 414, Kalispell, 59901

~~Flathead County~~ Commissioners, County Courthouse, Kalispell, 59901

Flathead County Library, Col. Falls Branch, 130 6th St. W., Col. Falls, 59912

Legislator Doug Wagner, Box 190021, Hungry Horse, 59919

Canyon Sportsman Club, Cliff Nelson, PO Box 322, Hungry Horse, 59919

North Valley Sportsman Club, Paul Murphy, 333 2nd St. E., Col. Falls, 59912

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since there were no responses received from the public, either in support or in opposition, to the proposed action on the Stidham's Farm Garden and Orchard Game Bird Farm, I am enclosing the Decision Document granting a game bird farm license. I have also enclosed the first and last page of the final EA, which represent the only changes made on the Draft EA which you previously received.

Sincerely,

Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

/nb

Enclosures

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



**STIDHAM GAME BIRD FARM DECISION DOCUMENT
MAY 24, 1995**

Application Background and Summary

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks received a completed application for the Stidham's Farm Garden and Orchard game bird farm on March 1, 1995, which by law must be acted upon not later than July 5, 1995. The application was prepared by Terry L. Stidham, P. O. Box 2353, 500 River Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

The Stidham Game Bird Farm is located at 500 River Road, Columbia Falls, Flathead County, Sec 16, R20, T30. The initial plans call for ringneck pheasants and chuckar partridge be added to their current pigeon inventory. The specific plans and other documentation are listed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Stidham Game Bird Farm. Copies of this document are available at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) office in Kalispell, MT.

The MEPA Process

The application process includes an EA by FWP to satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The agency issuing the license is required to assess the impacts to the human environment which include all factors which interrelate to form the human environment.

Issues Raised in the EA

The EA lists the issues in detail. These included the potential contamination and degradation of water systems, potential disease transmission between game birds and wild or domestic birds outside the facility, potential ingress or egress of game farm and wild birds, potential loss of area aesthetic value and an impact on the administrative work load of FWP.

Summary of Public Comment

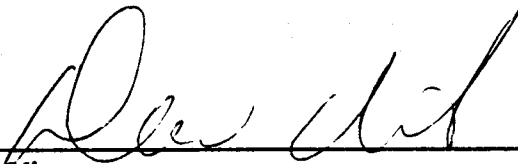
No comments were received during the public comment period (04/20/95-05/09/95) for the Stidham Game Bird Farm EA.

The Decision Process

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses environmental concerns identified and follows the applicable laws and regulations pertaining to such licenses. Current game bird farm laws require a decision within 120 days following receipt of a completed application.

Decision

Fish, Wildlife & Parks fully understands the potential impacts of a game bird farm in this area and has determined the potential impacts are minimal since the facility is located in an area with a small pheasant population and a small chuckar population. Fish, Wildlife & Parks has decided that a license to operate the game bird farm in question may be issued.



Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

5-24/95
Date

/nb

REF:DV378.95

EA Checklist Game Bird Farm License

PART I. GAME BIRD FARM LICENSE APPLICATION

The department's authority to regulate game bird farms is contained in section 87-4-901 through 87-4-916, MCA and ARM 12.6.1601 through 12.6.1604.

1. Name of Project: Stidham's Farm Garden and Orchard
2. Name, Address and Phone Number of Applicant: Terry L. & Norma J. Stidham, P. O. Box 2353, 500 River Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
3. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: May, 1995

Estimated Completion Date: August, 1995

Is this an application for expansion of existing facility or is a future expansion contemplated? Future expansion contemplated

4. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)
Flathead County, Sec 16, R20, T30
5. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

<p>(a) Developed:</p> <p>Residential <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>Industrial <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Areas <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>1 Single family dwelling</p> <p>(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas <u>0</u> acres</p>	<p>(d) Floodplain <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>(e) Productive:</p> <p>Irrigated cropland <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>Dry cropland <u>26</u> acres</p> <p>Forestry <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>Rangeland <u>0</u> acres</p> <p>(f) Other <u>0</u> acres</p>
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6. Map/site plan: See Appendix B.
7. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and

Purpose of the Proposed Action.

To set up and raise upland game birds. The birds to be raised are ringneck pheasants and chucker partridge.

8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name: _____ Permit: _____ Date Filed/#: _____

None

(b) Funding:

Agency Name: _____ Funding Amount: _____

None

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name: _____ Type of Responsibility: _____

None

9. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:

	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant *		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		x				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
f. Other: _		x				

*Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative 1: Not issue a game bird permit.

Alternative 2: Issue Permit

The applicant is currently raising pigeons. The addition of some more bird pens and some game birds will have no effect on the overall environment. There are very few upland game birds in this vicinity. The construction of new bird pens will start when the applicant receives the okay for the Game Bird Farm License.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None are applicable for this EA and Game Bird Farm License application.

3. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No impacts occur.

4. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any, and , given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

A 15-day public comment period is appropriate for this proposed action.

5. Duration of comment period, if any: Fifteen days.

6. Name, title, address, and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Perry Brown, State Game Warden

1325 S. Nucleus

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

(406) 892-3996

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

A review of the license application and the elements within this environmental review indicate that the potential for conflict in the social and physical environments is extremely low or non-existent.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

This application pertains to the addition of game birds to the pigeons currently being raised. The addition of a few game birds will have no effect on the overall environment. There were no responses received from the public, either in support or in opposition, to the proposed action. No irreversible commitments to the land-based resources are made as a result of the proposed action. No threatened or endangered plant or animal species are affected by this proposed action. This EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

EA Approved


Dan Vincent, Regional Supervisor

5/2/95
Date